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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Working Group on Berlin

1. The ad hoc working group on the Berlin question met at the Department of State at 1500 on Friday, 21 November 1958. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Fay Kohler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. Those present included:

Mr. Martin Hillenbrand, Director, Office of German Affairs
 Mr. Edward L. Freers, Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs
 Mr. Alfred Vigderman, Deputy Director, Office of German Affairs
 Mr. Richard Service, OIC, USSR Affairs
 Col. E. M. Harris, OIC/ISA
 Col. J. V. Totten, J-3 Div, Joint Staff
 Col John Damon, J-3 Div, Joint Staff

2. At 1545 the working group was joined by Mr. Roger W. Jackling, Counselor, and another representative of the British Embassy and by Mr. Olivier Menet, Counselor, French Embassy.

3. The purpose of the ad hoc working group was described by Mr. Kohler as that of coordinating and expediting tripartite actions with respect to the Berlin crisis. He thought it should be suggested to include FBI representation. Mr. Jackling after his arrival expressed the view that the best place to accomplish the coordination desired would seem to be Bonn rather than Washington. The continued existence of the working group is thus in question until the U.K. decides on its participation.

4. Prior to arrival of the French and British, Mr. Kohler outlined the problem, which stemmed from the State-Defense-JCS meeting of 21 November, of developing a course of action in the face of the

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5. Specific papers considered for discussion were:

a. A proposed cable to certain foreign posts (Rome, Moscow, London, Paris) containing U.S. views on the U.K. memorandum outlining possible Allied courses of action.

b. The agreed contingency plans covering procedures for road, rail and air moves to Berlin, which seem to need amplification and perhaps further adjustment in that they [

c. A protest to the USSR concerning [

6. Action taken on the foregoing was not conclusive:

a. It was agreed the cable needed rewording.

b. The contingency plans need further study and a decision as to basic position to be taken.

c. The U.S. démarche should await receipt of the specific USSR proposal which is not yet at hand.

7. It was agreed to meet again at 1500 on Monday, 24 November, and the U.S. members would meet on Saturday, 22 November, at 1100 to consider the specific USSR proposal if received by that time.

8. The meeting broke up at 1745.

(SIGNED)

E. M. Harris
Colonel, USA
European Region

Copy furnished:
JCS, Col Totten

Prepared by Col E.M.Harris/elm/22 Nov 58
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